

COMBINING THE HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN AND THE NEPA DOCUMENTS

The attached outline was used for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan draft and final EIS/HCP. This outline as well as the EA outline are NEPA outlines that we reviewed by NEPA coordinators in Albuquerque and Arlington Square.

The portions in italics were included in the document to identify the compliance with 50 CFR 17 requirements for the HCP aspects of the document.

The main complaint that we received over the past three years on combined documents has been that the reviewer wanted to know what the applicant proposed when they came to the Service. Therefore, in the EA version and the EIS version we have a section that is the Applicant's. In the EIS Alternative 2 discussion is strictly in the applicants words and no changes were made in this section without total approval of the applicant. We used Alternative 3 as the area to identify recommended changes to the Proposed Alternative. In the EA we have Section 6 which identifies the mitigation that was proposed by the Applicant and we identify in *ITALICS* what the Service will require.

This combination has worked well with the consultants providing a draft document that we review to ensure the NEPA portion is in the words of the Service.